WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for preparing powder-layered beads containing a therapeutically effective agent, comprising powder-layering inert beads having a diameter from about 0.1 mm to about 2.5 mm with a homogeneous powder mixture comprising a therapeutically active agent and a processing aid having a bulk density which is substantially similar to the bulk density of the therapeutically effective agent, except for microcrystalline cellulose, until said beads achieve a weight gain of at least about 10% to about 100%.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said processing aid is not water swellable.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said processing aid is hydrous lactose impalpable.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said processing aid is maltodextrin.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said processing aid is povidone.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said processing aid is pregelantized corn starch.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said processing aid is confectioner's sugar.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said processing aid is talc (100%).

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the bulk density of said processing aid is from about 75% to about 125% of the bulk density of said therapeutic agent.

10. A method for preparing an oral dosage form of powder-layered beads containing a therapeutically effective agent, comprising

(A) identifying the bulk density of the therapeutically effective agent to be powder-layered;

(B) identifying an processing aid in the form of a powder having a bulk density which is substantially similar to the bulk density of the therapeutically effective agent, except for microcrystalline cellulose;

(C) admixing the therapeutically effective agent with said processing aid to form a homogeneous powder mixture; and

(D) powder-layering inert beads having a diameter from about 0.1 mm to about 2.5 mm with said homogeneous powder mixture until said beads achieve a weight gain of at least about 10% to about 100%.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising spraying an aqueous binder solution onto said inert beads prior to said powder-layering of step (D) in order to provide said beads with a tacky surface.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said therapeutically active agent and said processing aid each have a bulk density from about 0.2 to about 0.9 g/ml.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the bulk density of said processing aid is from about 75% to about 125% of the bulk density of said therapeutic agent.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein said processing aid is not water swellable.

15. A method for preparing an oral dosage form of powder-layered beads containing a therapeutically effective agent having a bulk density from about 0.2 to about 0.8 g/ml, comprising

(A) identifying the bulk density of the therapeutically effective agent to be powder-layered;

(B) identifying a processing aid in the form of a powder having a bulk density from about 0.4 to about 0.9 g/ml which is substantially similar to the bulk density of the therapeutically effective agent, except for microcrystalline cellulose;

(C) admixing the therapeutically effective agent with said processing aid to form a homogeneous powder mixture; and

(D) powder-layering inert beads having a diameter from about 0.1 mm to about 2.5 mm with said homogeneous powder mixture until said beads achieve a weight gain of at least about 10% to about 100%.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the bulk density of said processing aid is from about 75% to about 125% of the bulk density of said therapeutic agent.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein said processing aid is not water swellable.